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EPA is “taking responsibility” to clean up approximately three million gallons of mine waste agency workers accidentally released into Colorado’s Animas River last week, Administrator Gina McCarthy said today.

“It is really a tragic and very unfortunate incident,” McCarthy said at a Resources for the Future event.

McCarthy noted that EPA’s mandate is to keep air and water clean, and that the agency has worked with states to clean up abandoned mines such as this one.

“It pains me to no end to see this is happening,” she said, adding that agency scientists are working “around the clock” on the issue. EPA also has kept the White House informed, McCarthy added.

— *Alex Guillen*

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